

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

DOE-11 OES-07 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /136 W

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O R 121131Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1953

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 00552

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM CCD UK

SUBJECT: UNSSOD: BRITISH VIEWS

1. SUMMARY: FCO HAS DEVELOPED TWO SETS OF PROPOSALS DESIGNED FOR USE AT UNSSOD TO HEAD OFF UNDESIRABLE NON-ALIGNED INITIATIVES. PROPOSALS RELATE TO DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION AND TO POSSIBLE NEW NEGOTIATING MACHINERY, INCLUDING ABOLITION OF PRESENT CCD CO-CHAIRMANSHIPS. BRITISH WILL TABLE PROPOSALS AT EC-9 AND NATO MEETINGS JAN 16 AND 17, RESPECTIVELY. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAD OF FCO ARMS CONTROL DEPARTMENT (MALLABY) TOLD EMBOFF LATE JAN 11 THAT HIS OFFICE HAS DEVELOPED TWO SETS OF PROPOSALS FOR EVENTUAL USE AT UNSSOD, IN EFFORT TO HEAD OFF WHAT FCO SEES AS LIKELIHOOD OF NON-ALIGNED EFFORTS TO "RAILROAD" ITS OWN IDEAS ON DISARMAMENT AND
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NEGOTIATING MACHINERY. PROPOSALS ARE NOW AWAITING UK MINISTERIAL APPROVAL.

3. PROGRAM OF ACTION: FIRST, FCO HAS PROPOSED A DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR SUBMISSION AT UNSSOD. MALLABY DEFERRED DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE OF DRAFT BUT INDICATED

IT CONTAINS NO MAJOR DEPARTURES FROM CURRENT ALLIED POSITIONS.

4. NEW NEGOTIATING MACHINERY. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THIS PRELIMINARY UK BRIEFING WAS TO ALERT USG TO FCO'S CONCLUSION THAT ONE ELEMENT OF WESTERN EFFORTS TO PRESERVE WORKABLE ARMS CONTROL FORUM DURING UNSSOD WILL HAVE TO BE SACRIFICE OF US-USSR CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ROLE. FCO BELIEVES THE NON-ALIGNED WILL PRESS ACTIVELY AND SUCCESSFULLY FOR NEW NEGOTIATING MACHINERY TO REPLACE THE CCD. BRITISH WILL OPPOSE ANY NEW FORUM THAT IS EXCESSIVELY LARGE (E.G., AN ARMS CONTROL EQUIVALENT OF ECOSOC OR UNCTAD) OR ONE THAT COULD LEAD TO DOMINATION BY NON-ALIGNED MAJORITIES.

5. THUS FCO PROPOSALS ENVISAGE USING PRESENT CCD AS CORE OF NEW GROUP, WITH ADDITION OF PRC, FOUR NON-ALIGNED, AND ONE OR TWO EES AND WEOS EACH. IN BRITISH VIEW, NEW GROUP WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE BROUGHT MORE DIRECTLY UNDER UN AEGIS, BUT BRITISH WOULD INSIST THAT IT REACH DECISIONS ONLY BY CONSENSUS.

6. AS PART OF UNSSOD BARGAINING TO RETAIN NEGOTIATING FORUM SATISFACTORY TO WESTERN MEMBERS, BRITISH ARE CONVINCED THAT UK PROPOSALS MUST INCLUDE NEW IDEAS ON CHAIRMANSHIP OF GROUP, AND THAT US-USSR CO-CHAIRMANSHIP

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"HAS TO GO." PRELIMINARY FCO PREFERENCE IS FOR SOME FORM OF ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP, ASSISTED BY A SMALL "MANAGEMENT" OR STEERING GROUP OF ONE EE, ONE WE (BUT EXCLUDING THE US AND USSR) AND ONE NON-ALIGNED REPRESENTATIVE.

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 00552

7. UK WILL WELCOME COMMENTS FROM ALLIES AT MEETINGS
NEXT WEEK AND, ULTIMATELY, CO-SPONSORSHIP BY INDIVIDUAL
ALLIES OF FINAL UK PROPOSALS AT UNSSOD. TACTICS FOR
INTRODUCING PROPOSALS AT UNSSOD ARE STILL TO BE
DETERMINED.

8. MALLABY INDICATED HE WOULD BE IN POSITION TO
FURNISH EMBASSY FURTHER DETAILS LATER THIS WEEK AFTER
FCO STAFF WORK HAS RECEIVED MINISTERIAL BLESSING.
MALLABY UNDERLINED FCO'S REGRET IT HAS NOT PROVEN
POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THESE PROPOSALS WITH US EXPERTS
PRIOR TO MEETING OF NINE ON JAN 16. HOWEVER, MALLABY
WILL MEET WITH US EXPERTS IN BRUSSELS BEFORE JAN 17
NATO MEETING.
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9. COMMENT: WE HAD NO PRIOR INDICATION OF BRITISH MOVE
ON CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE AND WE HAVE LITTLE TIME TO TRY
TO HOLD HMG BACK IF THAT IS OUR DESIRE. MALLABY (AND
HIS DEPUTY, DAVID BURNS) LEAVE FOR COPENHAGEN THIS WEEK-
END, AND MINISTERS (WHO WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE DELAY) ARE
GENERALLY UNAVAILABLE ON WEEKENDS. THUS, IF WE ARE TO
REQUEST HMG TO HALT ITS INITIATIVE, WE WOULD NEED
INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO BY OPENING OF BUSINESS FRIDAY,
JAN 14.

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